

Message Text

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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TAGS: OTRA, OCON, EEWT, XG, WB, GE

SUBJ: EASTERN EUROPEAN ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICERS'

CONFERENCE: TRAVEL GUIDELINES

REF: A. STATE 011887; B. STATE 016359 (NOTAL)

C. PRAGUE 0168 (NOTAL); D. BUDAPEST 0195 (NOTAL)

E. VIENNA 0430 & 0514 (NOTAL)

1. AT THE REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT, THE MISSION OFFERS PARTICIPANTS IN THE FORTHCOMING ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICERS' CONFERENCE THE GUIDELINES SET FORTH BELOW FOR TRAVEL TO AND FROM WEST BERLIN.

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2. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS.

THE U.S. DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THE CLAIM OF THE GDR THAT THE SOVIET SECTOR OF BERLIN (EAST BERLIN) IS A PART OF THE GDR. IN TRAVELING IN AND THROUGH THE GDR AND TO EAST BERLIN, THEREFORE, U.S. OFFICIALS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS MUST GUARD AGAINST GDR EFFORTS TO TREAT THE DIVIDING LINE BETWEEN THE EASTERN AND WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN AS AN INTERNATIONAL FRONTIER. CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS SHOULD NOT ACCEPT GDR VISA WITH OBJECTIONABLY PHRASEOLOGY SUCH AS "VALID FOR TRAVEL IN THE GDR AND ITS CAPITAL, BERLIN." IN ADDITION, IN TRAVELING THROUGH THE GDR TO AND FROM WEST BERLIN THEY SHOULD USE ONLY GDR-WEST BERLIN CHECKPOINTS. NOT REPEAT NOT EAST BERLIN-WEST BERLIN CHECKPOINTS. THE (THE PLANNED VISIT TO EAST BERLIN DURING THE CONFERENCE WILL BE MADE UNDER STANDARD PROCEDURES WHICH AVOID GDR STAMPING OF PASSPORTS AT CHECKPOINT CHARLIE.)

3. TRAVEL BY AIR.

A. TO WEST BERLIN AIRPORTS. LEAST COMPLICATED METHOD OF TRAVEL IS VIA FLIGHTS TO TEMPELHOF OR TEGEL AIRPORTS IN WEST BERLIN. NO VISAS ARE REQUIRED. MISSION REGRETS IT WILL BE UNABLE TO MEET TRAVELERS, WHO ARE ASKED UPON ARRIVAL TO PROCEED BY TAXI TO HOTEL SCHWEITZER HOF.

B. TO SCHOENEFELD AIRPORT. FOR FLIGHTS TO SCHOENEFELD, WHICH IS LOCATED OUTSIDE EAST BERLIN IN THE GDR PROPER, TRANSIT VISAS ARE REQUIRED, VALID FOR ARRIVAL IN THE GDR AT SCHOENEFELD AIRPORT AND TRAVEL DIRECTLY TO WEST BERLIN. MISSION OFFICERS ARE UNABLE TO VISIT SCHOENEFELD, HENCE TRAVELERS ARRIVING THERE SHOULD PROCEED TO WEST BERLIN BY AIRPORT BUS. OUR INFORMATION IS THAT BUSES LEAVE SCHOENEFELD EVERY HALF HOUR UNTIL 7:00 P.M. AND HOURLY THEREAFTER, WITH LAST DEPARTURE AT 11:00 P.M. BUSES ARE PAINTED RED OR BLUE, HAVE SIGNS READING "INTERFLUG" IN FRONT WINDOW, BUT ARE NOT OTHERWISE MARKED. TRAVELER MUST INQUIRE TO BE SURE DESTINATION IS WEST BERLIN RATHER THAN EAST. ONCE INSIDE WEST BERLIN, BUSES MAKE ONE STOP AT BELIOS TRAVEL AGENCY, WHICH IS NEARER TO HOTEL SCHWEITZER HOF, BUT BECAUSE OF GENERAL UNAVAILABILITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF TAXIS OF TELEPHONES THERE TRAVELERS WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO STAY WITH BUS TO END OF LINE (FUNKTURN) WHERE TAXIS ARE PLENTIFUL.

4. TRAVEL BY PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLE.

A. ROUTING AND VISAS. WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO EVENTUAL RULES THAT MAY BE ADOPTED AS PART OF A UNIFORM ALLIED TRAVEL POLICY, THE DEPARTMENT HAS APPROVED USE OF ANY ROUTE FOR

DRIVING TO AND FROM WEST BERLIN, UNDER GDR CONTROLS, BY CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS (OTHER THAN THOSE STATIONED IN THE FRG). WITH OFFICIALS OR DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS-- SUBJECT, OF COURSE, TO CONSIDERATIONS IN PARA 2 ABOVE. IN APPLYING FOR VISAS, TRAVELERS SHOULD INDICATE THE GDR ENTRY AND EXIT POINTS TO BE USED; FOR ALL POV TRAVELERS, EXIT FROM GDR INTO WEST BERLIN AND VICE VERSA WOULD BE AT DREWITZ/DREILINDEN.

B. ACCESS TO WEST BERLIN. ALL AUTOBAHNS TO BERLIN FEED INTO THE "BERLINER RING" SOUTH OF THE CITY. ONCE ON THE RING, TRAVELERS SHOULD AVOID EXITS MARKED "BERLIN HAUPTSTADT DER DDR" ("CAPITAL OF THE GDR") BUT RATHER FOLLOW SIGNS TO "WEST BERLIN VIA DREWITZ." AT DREWITZ, USE REGULAR GDR TRAFFIC LANES, NOT THOSE MARKED FOR ALLIED OR MILITARY TRAFFIC. ONCE INSIDE WEST BERLIN DRIVERS MAY INQUIRE FOR DIRECTIONS TO HOTEL SCHWEITZER HOF. (KITS CONTAINING MAPS ARE BEING POUCHED TO PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE INDICATED INTENTION TO DRIVE.)

5. TRAVEL BY RAIL.

ARRIVAL IN BERLIN BY TRAIN PRESENTS COMPLICATIONS IN THAT THERE IS NO ACCEPTABLE WAY OF HAVING PASSPORTS STAMPED TO SHOW THAT TRAVELER EXITED GDR DURING PERIOD OF CONFERENCE IN WEST BERLIN. LIMITED EXPERIENCE TO DATE HOWEVER SUGGESTS THAT TRAIN TRAVEL IS FEASIBLE PROVIDED DUE CARE IS EXERCISED, THOUGH WE BELIEVE IT SHOULD NOT BE USED BY TRAVELERS WITHOUT DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS. PLEASE OBSERVE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES:

A. BOOK PASSAGE ONLY TO EAST BERLIN AND LEAVE TRAIN THERE (SOME TRAINS FROM EASTERN EUROPE CONTINUE TO WEST BERLIN, BUT PASSPORTS OF PASSENGERS ARE STAMPED AT INTERNAL SECTOR BOUNDARY). THERE ARE TWO MAIN RAIL TERMINAL POINTS IN EAST BERLIN, THE OSTBAHNHOF (EAST STATION) AND THE FRIEDRICHSTRASSE BAHNHOF.

B. CABLE ARRIVAL DATA INCLUDING, IF KNOWN, EAST BERLIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TERMINAL, TO MISSION, WHICH WILL SEND CAR DRIVEN BY MISSION OFFICER OR U.S. SOLDIER TO ACCOMPANY TRAVELER FROM EAST BERLIN STATION THROUGH CHECKPOINT CHARLIE. REVERSE PROCEDURE WILL BE FOLLOWED ON DEPARTURE.

6. EMERGENCY CONTACTS.

IN EVENT OF DIFFICULTIES WHILE TRAVELING IN THE GDR OR IN EAST BERLIN, TELEPHONE EMBASSY BERLIN (2202-741) WHOSE SWITCHBOARD IS MANNED AFTER HOURS BY MSG. EMBASSY ALSO HAS DIRECT OPEN LINE TO MISSION. IN WEST BERLIN, TELEPHONE FOR MISSION CONTROL OFFICER PHILIP J. GRIFFIN IS 819-7654 (OFFICE) OR 801-2993 (HOME). MISSION DUTY OFFICER CAN BE REACHED THROUGH MILITARY CHIEF OPERATOR (030-819-6531).GEORGE

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